GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2620
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2015
Quality of Water
Patle Smt. Kamla Devi

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme/action plan for fixing stringent norms with regard to the quality of drinking water and making its implementation mandatory;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken to ensure the supply of safe drinking water;

(c) whether the Government is considering any proposal for taking stringent action against the local Government agencies and water supply boards failing in ensuring the supply of safe drinking water;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any test for determining purity/quality of drinking water has been conducted recently and if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER FOR
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

(a) to (d) : Madam, fixing of Standards including that for public drinking water supply is in the mandate of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) which has formulated IS 10500: 2012 drinking water specification.
Ministry of Urban Development has informed that providing water supply and maintaining the quality of drinking water in urban areas is the responsibility of States/ Urban Local Bodies (ULBs). The Ministry of Urban Development is not involved in the day to day activities of operating and maintaining urban water supply systems. However, Ministry of Urban Development facilitates States/ULBs in framing broad policies, programmes and guidelines on urban water supply and provides Additional Central Assistance (ACA) under various programmes run from time-to-time.
Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation has informed that the IS 10500: 2012 Standard which is Drinking Water Specifications for Public Drinking Water Supply is voluntary in nature. Since Water Supply is a State Subject, any action against contamination of water being supplied is to be dealt by the State Government itself. However, larger domain of water quality problems are brought to the notice of Statutory Bodies like National Human Rights Commission, National Green Tribunal, etc. However, Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Govt. of India allocates 3% of funds released to the States for Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance which inter-alia including setting up and running of Water Quality Testing Laboratories so that access of safe drinking water is ensured by the State Department dealing with Rural Drinking Water Supply.

(e) : As reported by the States in Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) of the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, during the year 2014-15, 40 lakhs drinking water samples have been reported tested by the Water Quality Testing Laboratories and during the current year 2015-16, till 08-12-2015, 21.8 lakhs drinking water samples have been reported tested.
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